



Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee

Minute of Decision

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Option of a Beverage Container Return Scheme

Portfolio **Environment**

On 5 August 2021, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee:

- 1 **noted** that investigating a New Zealand (NZ) container return scheme (CRS):
 - 1.1 is a Labour Party Manifesto commitment;
 - 1.2 was recommended to be implemented by the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor in 2019;
 - 1.3 aligns with the New Zealand Labour Party and Green Party of Aotearoa's Cooperation Agreement;
- 2 **noted** that New Zealand's beverage container recovery rate is relatively low (54 percent, by weight) and that beverage containers are a significant source of litter in New Zealand;
- 3 **noted** that a CRS reduces litter and incentivises the return of beverage containers to a level unlikely to be achieved through other methods alone;
- 4 **noted** that a CRS is a form of product stewardship that enacts the polluter pays principle by shifting the costs of recycling away from councils and ratepayers, to beverage producers and consumers;
- 5 **noted** that a NZ CRS aligns with wider government work on regulated product stewardship, kerbside standardisation and plastic phase-outs;
- 6 **agreed** in principle to progress the development of a NZ CRS, subject to further advice to Cabinet on key design considerations;
- 7 **invited** the Minister for the Environment to prepare further advice on the design considerations of a NZ CRS, prior to seeking Cabinet's agreement to consult on a NZ CRS.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Attendees (see over)

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon David Parker (Chair)
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Michael Wood
Hon James Shaw

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ENV
Ministry for the Environment

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